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MEDIA RELEASE

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UM ALUMNI PHONATHON SLATED MONDAY, WEDNESDAY

University of Montana alumni living in the Missoula area can expect to get a phone call Monday or Wednesday night. The UM Alumni Association and UM Foundation will be conducting a phonathon Dec. 6 and Dec. 8 to help raise money for the annual Excellence Fund Drive.

About 60 volunteers will be staffing phones at two locations, at First Bank Western on Broadway and at the Champion Timberlands office in Bonner. Calling will be done from 7 to 9 each night.

Each caller will contact about 33 people, Ernie Corrick, general manager of Champion Timberlands and chairman of the phonathon, said. The goal is to contact 2,000 alumni during the two nights.

"We will try not to call on any alumni who have already donated to this year's campaign," Corrick said. The campaign runs from July 1 to June 30.

Last year, the phonathon raised \$5,800 from the Missoula area. The average gift was \$34, Gayle Walton, assistant director of the UM Foundation, said.

"If we do at least as well as last year we should be able to raise in excess of \$10,000," she said.

In addition to Corrick and Ted Delaney, assistant chairman of the event, nine team captains are in charge of recruiting volunteers to do the phoning. They are Bill Beaman, Jim Bentley, Gary Brown, Greg Hanson, Dr. Ervin King and Chris King, Bob Lamley, Charles Miller, Hal and Sheila Stearns and Tomme Lu Worden.

(over)

Phonathons also are being planned for Helena, Billings, Great Falls and Spokane to help meet a national goal of \$200,000 for the Excellence Fund. Last year was the first time the national goal was met.

The Missoula Excellence Fund Drive, which is presently underway, is directed primarily toward local business and makes up a major portion of the national goal. Last year the Missoula portion of the drive raised about \$70,000.

Money raised by the Excellence Fund provides private funds for special University projects, such as start-up money for the marching band, and areas of critical need, such as more books for the library. The money also provides scholarships and funding for faculty development, student recruitment, alumni programs, the small grants program to encourage research on campus, and the presidential enhancement fund to meet other special needs.

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